

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5529

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FOR IPS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, JO

SUBJECT: WIRELESS FILE NO 171, IPS REPORT ON CONGRESSIONAL
SITUATION

1. I AM VERY MUCH DISTURBED BY SLOPPY REPORTING END PAGE 3
BEGINNING PAGE 4 ON JORDAN MISSILE SALE IN ARTICLE WIRELESS FILE
NO 171 BY WENDY ROSS IPS CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENT. IF ROSS
HAD ONLY CHECKED WITH STATE DESK FOR FEW MINUTES I AM SURE THESE
ERRONEOUS AND DAMAGING STATEMENTS COULD HAVE CORRECTLY
REFLECTED ACTUAL SITUATION.

2. THERE ARE TWO PROBLEM AREAS. SHE WROTE AT BOTTON P. 3 "THE
ADMINISTRATION JULY 28 WITHDREW ITS ORIGINAL PROPOSAL TO SELL
MISSILE EQUIPMENT VALUED AT 350 MILLION DOLLARS TO JORDAN IN THE
FACE OF CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION TO THE MAGNITUDE OF THE SALE."
WHAT ADMINISTRATION DID DO, WAS AT REQUEST OF SFRC TO CONTINUE TO
KEEP THE ORIGINAL NOTIFICATION ON HAWK MISSILES BEFORE CONGRESS
FOR AN ADDITIONAL PERIOD OF TIME THROUGH CONGRESSIONAL RECESS AND INTO

SEPTEMBER. HAWK SALE REPRESENTS ABOUT \$250M OF THE TOTAL \$350M.
THE VULCAN GUNS VALUED AT \$100M ARE BEING SOLD TO JORDAN WITHOUT
CONGRESSIONAL OBJECTION.

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3. SECOND ERRONEOUS STATEMENT IS "FURTHER CONGRESSIONAL ACTION

ON THIS ISSUE IS DEPENDENT ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S SUBMISSION OF ANOTHER PROPOSAL." THIS IS OF COURSE NOT TRUE AS NOTED ABOVE. THE SAME PROPOSAL IS BEFORE THE CONGRESS. THE ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT IS NOT PREPARED TO SUBMIT "ANOTHER" PROPOSAL. FURTHER SINCE ABOVE QUOTE FOLLOWS A SENTENCE WHICH SAYS THAT THE OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSAL IS BASED IN PART ON ITS SIZE, THE IMPLICATION IS THAT FOR THE PROPOSAL TO GO ANYWHERE, THE ADMINISTRATION MUST CHANGE ITS POSITION.

4. UNFORTUNATELY US PRESS HAS CONSISTENTLY REPORTED ISSUE IN ABOVE TERMS ALSO, BUT ADDITIONAL PUBLICITY OF THIS CHARACTER, PARTICULARLY IN JORDAN, IS NOT UNHELPFUL. SUGGEST IMMEDIATE CORRECTION TO FIRST QUOTED SENTENCE AND DROPPING OF SECOND.
PICKERING

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